

# Career Cruising: Kentucky ILP Newsletter- February 2012

Hello,

Welcome to the Career Cruising- Kentucky ILP February newsletter! The winter semester is well under way now, and we appreciate that this is a very busy time of year for you. In view of that, I'd like to keep this month's newsletter fairly brief. I'd just like to update you on Operation Preparation training sessions on behalf of the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE), keep you posted on planned EXPLORE, PLAN, and ACT data uploads, inform you of the next GSSP data upload, and remind you about the ability to use screen reader assistive technology with the ILP.

## Online Training for Operation Preparation Now Available

On behalf of the Kentucky Department of Education, I'd like to share the following announcement:



Operation Preparation volunteers can now register to participate in online training modules in preparation for their individual advising sessions. (Click on the link below to learn more about the training sessions.)

The online training module for Operation Preparation is available within the Operation Preparation toolkit.

<http://www.teachersdomain.org/special/kysbo/kysbo.oprep>

It is housed on the KET/Teachers Domain site. You will need to register to gain access. There is a dark green box, near the top-center of the page to register.



Online training takes about 30 minutes to complete, and volunteer advisors receive a certificate of completion that they can print out and bring with them to the school where they would like to volunteer.

### **EXPLORE, PLAN, and ACT Data Import Update**

With Operation Preparation fast approaching, we and our partners at the Kentucky Department of Education are striving to ensure that EXPLORE, PLAN, and ACT statewide data is ready in time for the college and career readiness week's activities, March 12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>. We expect to receive EXPLORE, PLAN, and ACT test data from KDE later this month, after which we will make every effort to process this data and have in place within the ILPs in time for Operation Preparation.

### **Next Gifted Student Service Plan (GSSP) Data Upload**

On the subject of data, we are working with the Kentucky Department of Education to facilitate the next Gifted Student Service Plan (GSSP) statewide data upload from your school's and district's Infinite Campus student information system. The upload is scheduled to be completed by early March. GSSP data is updated statewide four times each school year. The remaining 2011-12 update after this one is planned for early May.

### **Using Screen Readers with Career Cruising**

Compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act has been a requirement of the ILP since its inception. Career Cruising is fully compliant with Section 508 of the Americans with Disabilities Act. As a result, it is an accessible website and is compatible for use with screen readers and other adaptive technology. The screen reader we advocate using with Career Cruising and the ILP, when possible, is JAWS.

David Hume, a teacher at the Kentucky School for the Blind, offers these tips to educators using JAWS with the ILP:

- Use link lists to navigate
- The questions in Career Matchmaker require virtual PC to read (0 plus minus sign)

- The answers can be chosen using 'f' (next form) and the spacebar to check. However, the PC cursor must first be routed back to JAWS (0 plus + sign). This requires a lot of extra keystrokes to navigate through the questions and answers.
- There are very few headings on the pages, so using 'p' for next paragraph is helpful

Other accommodations could include assistance with reading or additional explanations of instructions and activities. Most components of Career Cruising are not timed, so individuals with disabilities will not be restricted by time limits.

As promised, this month's update was relatively brief! If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Jim Daigneau

Client Account Manager

Career Cruising

Tel: 1-800-965-8541 (ext. 137)

Email: [KYsupport@careercruising.com](mailto:KYsupport@careercruising.com)

[jimd@careercruising.com](mailto:jimd@careercruising.com)